

HEALTH
C27 JAN 56
CR. 55

Borough of



Accrington

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

REGINALD C. WEBSTER, B.Sc., M.D., D.P.H., D.C.H.

including the

Reports of the Chief Sanitary Inspector
and Cleansing Superintendent

JOHN A. HINDLE, Cert.R.S.H., M.Inst.P.C.

== 1954 ==

Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2016 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b28796871>

Borough of



Accrington

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

REGINALD C. WEBSTER, B.Sc., M.D., D.P.H., D.C.H.

including the

Reports of the Chief Sanitary Inspector
and Cleansing Superintendent

JOHN A. HINDLE, Cert.R.S.H., M.Inst.P.C.

== 1954 ==



MEMBERS OF THE HEALTH COMMITTEE
1954-55

THE MAYOR, COUNCILLOR M. WALSH, J.P.
(ex-officio)

Chairman:

*ALDERMAN W. HOWSON

Vice-Chairman:

*COUNCILLOR W. E. BARRATT

ALDERMAN J. S. HARGREAVES

„ A. DAWSON

COUNCILLOR N. BENTLEY

* „ J. B. BIRCH

* „ F. CAREFOOT

„ R. LIVERSAGE

* „ W. RIDEHALGH

„ P. SMITHIES

„ Mrs. WALSH

„ Miss WORSLEY

* Members of the Health Sub-Committee.

STAFF OF THE HEALTH AND CLEANSING DEPARTMENT

Medical Officer of Health:

REGINALD C. WEBSTER, B.Sc., M.D., D.P.H., D.C.H.

Chief Sanitary Inspector and Cleansing Superintendent
(Full-time Officer):

JOHN A. HINDLE, Cert.R.S.H., M.Inst.P.C.

Deputy Chief Sanitary Inspector and Cleansing Superintendent
(Full-time Officer):

FRANK KENNIFORD, M.R.S.H., M.R.I.P.H.

Additional Sanitary Inspectors (Full-time Officers):

KEITH FODEN, M.R.S.H.

WILLIAM J. WOLSTENHOLME, M.R.S.H.

(Resigned 30th June, 1954)

GORDON ECCLES, Cert. R.S.H.

KENNETH SHACKLETON, Cert. R.S.H.

(Appointed 1st October, 1954)

Student Sanitary Inspector:

JAMES M. PILKINGTON

(Appointed 27th September, 1954)

Infectious Diseases Officer, etc.:

HUBERT MULHALL

Senior Foreman:

ERNEST LIVESEY

CLERICAL STAFF:

Public Health Offices:

JOHN WALMSLEY

ROBERT McCONNELL

Mrs. A. THORNLEY

Cleansing Depôt:

WALTER OGDEN

Refuse Disposal Works:

ROBERT A. WALMSLEY

Public Health Department,

Town Hall,

Accrington.

**To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors
of the Borough of Accrington.**

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen.

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the Health of the Borough for the year 1954.

With regard to housing, it will be seen that, although there has been a substantial decrease in the waiting lists, this remains an important problem.

Infectious diseases were in general low in incidence, but they included four cases of poliomyelitis closely grouped in one district. Although careful enquiries were made, no solid information as to the source was obtained.

Infant mortality showed a disappointing rise, but this was mainly due to congenital deformities which are at present not within our control.

I thank the members of the Council for their courtesy and interest throughout the year and the Chief Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Hindle, and his staff for their friendly co-operation.

I remain,

Your obedient servant,

REGINALD C. WEBSTER.

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES.

Ambulances	}	Provided by Lancashire County Council
Home Nursing		
Home Helps		
Maternity & Child Welfare		
School Medical Service		
Tuberculosis (Home Visiting)		
Welfare of Aged	}	Provided by Manchester Regional Hospital Board.
Hospitals		
Venereal Diseases Treatment		
Tuberculosis Treatment		
Laboratory		At local hospitals and Manchester Public Health Laboratory.
Public Analyst - - -		Mr. S. E. Melling, F.R.I.C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE BOROUGH.

Water Supply.

The local water resources were supplemented by the acquisition of a bulk supply from Burnley Corporation during May.

It is expected that early in 1955 the supply will be further augmented on the completion of the Haweswater Aqueduct. and that some easement of an old problem should ensue.

Housing.

See Sanitary Inspector's Report. The problem remains very large.

A. No. of New houses built in 1954—

1. By the Corporation, 18.
2. By other bodies or persons, 11.

- B. 1. No. on waiting list for houses, 666.
 2. No. of applicants known to be living in lodgings, 69.
- C. 1. No. of cases of overcrowding brought to notice during the year, Nil.
 2. No. of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year, Nil.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Twenty-one (21) new cases of Tuberculosis were notified during the year; of these 13 were respiratory cases and 8 non-respiratory.

The incidence of males to females infected was as follows:-

Respiratory, 9 males, 4 females;

Non-Respiratory, 2 males, 6 females.

Four (4) deaths were caused by this disease in 1954, and these were made up as follows:—

Respiratory, 3 males;

Non-Respiratory, 1 male.

The age groups into which these deaths fall can be seen on the statistical sheet on Tuberculosis.

Total number of cases on the active register at 31st December, 1954:—

Respiratory	males	111	females	74	=	185
Non-Respiratory	„	30	„	40	=	70
						<hr/>
						255

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Notifications were received in respect of 228 cases during the year 1954. There were 5 cases of Scarlet Fever, 62 cases of Measles, 5 cases of Pneumonia, 147 cases of Whooping Cough, 4 cases of Acute Poliomyelitis, 2 cases of Erysipelas, and 3 cases of Food Poisoning.

ANALYSIS OF THE CAUSES OF DEATH.

There were 579 deaths registered in the Borough in 1954. Of these 298 were males and 281 females. The Death Rate for the year was 14.5, as compared with that for the country as a whole which was 11.3.

Heart Diseases headed the list as the cause of death, being responsible for 190 of the registered deaths. Vascular Lesions of the Nervous System filled second place with 104 deaths and Cancer came third with 77 deaths.

It will be seen then that

.32.81% of deaths were due to Heart Diseases.

17.96%	„	„	„	Vascular Lesions of Nervous System.
--------	---	---	---	--

13.29%	„	„	„	Cancerous Diseases.
--------	---	---	---	---------------------

0.69%	„	„	„	Tuberculosis.
-------	---	---	---	---------------

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres), 4,418.

Population (Census 1931), 42,991.

Registrar-General's estimate of Resident population, mid 1954, 39,990.

Population—Preliminary Census, 1951, 40,671.

No. of inhabited houses (Census 1931), 12,019; (1954, 14,646).

Rateable Value, £271,572.

Sum represented by a penny rate, £1,079.

The social conditions of the Borough are good. Chief industries are textile weaving, finishing and printing, textile and general engineering, etc.

VITAL STATISTICS (Provisional).

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Live Births—Legitimate	269	247	516
Illegitimate	11	16	27
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	280	263	543
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Stillbirths	9	6	15
Deaths of Infants under 1 year	15	6	21
Deaths (all ages)	298	281	579
Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population			13.6
Stillbirths—Rate per 1,000 total births (live and still) ...			27
Death rate per 1,000 estimated population			14.5

Deaths from puerperal causes:	Death-rate per 1,000 total
	Deaths. (live and still) births.
Puerperal & post-abortive sepsis Nil.	Nil.
Other maternal causes	Nil.

Death-rate of infants under one year of age:

All infants per 1,000 live births	38.67
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births ...	38.75
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births...	37.03

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	77
„ „ Measles (all ages)	0
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages)	0
„ „ Diarrhœa (under 2 years of age)	0
„ „ Pulmonary tuberculosis (all ages)	3
„ „ Other forms of tuberculosis (all ages)	1

**TOTAL NUMBERS OF BIRTHS, DEATHS, INFANT
DEATHS AND INFANT MORTALITY
FOR THE PAST TEN YEARS.**

Year.	Births.	Deaths.	Infant Deaths.	Infant Mortality.
1954	543	579	21	38.7
1953	547	531	16	29.3
1952	551	563	14	25.4
1951	581	675	23	39.6
1950	564	614	22	39.0
1949	652	652	32	49.1
1948	690	548	23	33.3
1947	710	610	31	43.7
1946	638	617	25	39.2
1945	570	589	29	50.9
1944	567	564	23	40.6

**CAUSES OF DEATHS OF ACCRINGTON RESIDENTS
DURING 1954.**

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Tuberculosis, Respiratory	3	—	3
Tuberculosis, Other forms	1	—	1
Syphilitic Disease	—	2	2
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infections	1	—	1
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—
Measles	—	—	—
Other Infective & Parasitic Diseases...	—	—	—
Malignant Neoplasm:			
Stomach	9	7	16
Lung, Bronchus	8	3	11
Breast	1	5	6
Uterus	—	—	—
Other Malignant & Lymphatic Neoplasms	23	21	44
Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	—	—	—
Diabetes	2	4	6

Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	45	59	104
Coronary Disease, Angina	58	31	89
Hypertension with Heart Disease	4	8	12
Other Heart Disease	41	48	89
Other Circulatory Disease	19	14	33
Influenza	2	—	2
Pneumonia	14	16	30
Bronchitis	17	16	33
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	2	2	4
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	4	—	4
Gastritis, Enteritis & Diarrhœa	—	—	—
Nephritis and Nephrosis	—	2	2
Hyperplasia of Prostate	4	—	4
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	—	—	—
Congenital Malformations	4	2	6
Other defined & ill-defined Diseases ...	23	28	51
Motor Vehicle Accidents	—	1	1
All other Accidents	6	9	15
Suicide	6	3	9
Homicide and Operations of War ...	1	—	1
	<hr/> 298	<hr/> 281	<hr/> 579

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Notifiable diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the year 1954.

Total cases
notified.

Smallpox	—
Scarlet Fever	5
Diphtheria (including membranous croup)	—
Food Poisoning	3
Enteric Fever (including paratyphoid)	—

Measles (excluding German Measles)	62
Whooping Cough	147
Acute pneumonia (primary and influenzal)	5
Puerperal pyrexia	—
Cerebro-spinal fever	—
Acute poliomyelitis	4
Acute polio-encephalitis	—
Encephalitis lethargica	—
Dysentery	—
Ophthalmia neonatorum	—
Erysipelas	2
Malaria (contracted in this country)	—
(Abroad)	—
	<hr/>
	Total 228
	<hr/>

TUBERCULOSIS.

New cases and Mortality during the year 1954.

NEW CASES.

Age Periods Years.	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	—	—	—	—
1	—	—	—	2
5	—	—	1	1
10	—	—	—	—
15	1	—	—	—
20	—	—	—	1
25	2	2	1	1
35	1	2	—	—
45	3	—	—	—
55	—	—	—	1
65 and upwards	2	—	—	—
	<hr/>			
Totals	9	4	2	6
	<hr/>			

DEATHS.

Age Periods Years.	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	—	—	—	—
1	—	—	—	—
5	—	—	—	—
10	—	—	—	—
15	—	—	—	—
20	—	—	—	—
25	—	—	—	—
35	—	—	—	—
45	1	—	1	—
55	—	—	—	—
65 and upwards	2	—	—	—
Totals		3	—	1

FOOD POISONING.

3 cases were notified during the year.

SUPERANNUATION EXAMINATIONS.

In 1954 the following examinations were carried out, viz:—

	By M.O.H.	By Assistant M.O.
Superannuation Acts	60	6
Other examinations	23	—

SANITARY INSPECTION AND PUBLIC CLEANSING SERVICES.

ANNUAL REPORT, 1954.

Public Health and Cleansing Department,

Town Hall,

ACCRINGTON.

To the Mayor and Members of the Town Council.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my TWENTY-EIGHTH Annual Report on the work of the Borough's Sanitary Inspectors for the year 1954, and on the Public Cleansing Services for the year ended 31st March, 1955.

With reports of this nature there is inevitably a time-lag of several months after the end of the period to which they relate. The matter contained therein is somewhat outdated so far as news value is concerned, although the comment and statistics are useful from the point of view of presenting to members of the Council and the public generally a permanent record of the varied activities of the Department.

WATER SUPPLY.

Water is supplied by the Accrington and District Water Board from upland sources (Reservoirs: Dean Clough, Mitchell's House, Burnley Road and Plantation Mill), and from underground

sources (Altham Borehole and Rishton Colliery). In addition a bulk supply was acquired from Burnley Corporation during the year.

All public water supplies are passed through pressure filters and are chlorinated. Water from one reservoir (Mitchell's House) is soft moorland (peaty) water, having a low pH value, and is treated with lime and chalk after filtration to neutralise acidity. Water from the other sources is not liable to plumbo-solvency, and daily examinations are carried out by the Water Board to ascertain pH value, a standard of 8.0 being sought.

The Board are always vigilant for contamination and exercise all due care in ensuring a safe and wholesome water supply. Routine samples are taken by the Board at monthly intervals from every source of supply, such samples being submitted for bacteriological examination by the Public Health Laboratory Service. The Water Engineer, Mr. R. Jackson, has kindly supplied the information that, during the year under review, 250 samples of water were submitted by the Board for bacteriological examination, together with 12 samples for chemical analysis, the results being satisfactory.

The number of houses in the Borough which do not receive a mains' supply but have private supplies, e.g. wells, springs, etc., is approximately 50, these premises being situated in the rural parts of the town.

SANITARY ACCOMMODATION.

The number of waste water closets was further reduced during the year, 208 having been converted to the fresh water flushed type.

The various types of sanitary convenience in use at dwelling-houses in the Borough are as follow:—

	1954	1926
Fresh water closets	9,667	2,195
Waste water closets	5,208	9,238
Pail closets	96	294

The preceding statistics illustrate the progress made in the conversion of waste water closets since 1926, the year when I took over control of the Department, approximately 44% of such conveniences having been abolished in that period. This has been achieved notwithstanding a break of eleven years from 1939 to 1950 when war conditions and the Treasury ban on capital expenditure reduced conversion work to relatively small proportions.

As will be seen, the current year's figure of conversions carried out means that, at this rate, the complete substitution of waste water closets by the fresh water flushed type will not be effected in the reasonably near future. Considering that the abolition of such closet accommodation is the principal sanitary requirement of the Borough, this is far from encouraging from the public health aspect.

Steady progress is, however, being made each year towards the eventual elimination of these antiquated and unhygienic conveniences. This progress is limited by the desire to keep rate-borne expenditure within reasonable limits, but more especially by the inability of the local building trades to cope with a greater number of such conversions. The plain fact is that work of a more pleasant nature is available, and the Department

is encountering some difficulty in obtaining the services of building contractors for the limited number of absolutely essential conversions.

HOUSING ACTS AND PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS.

The following Table gives a summarised list of nuisances and housing defects discovered in dwelling-houses during the year and dealt with by the service of notices. It will no doubt be appreciated that where the number of defects, etc., remedied exceeds the number discovered, this is due to the fact that many such defects discovered in the previous year have been remedied during the year under review.

In many cases owners are persuaded to voluntarily remedy defects without the necessity of written notices. Such informal action occupies much of the inspectorate's time, but results are usually worth-while.

In addition to the defects referred to in the table, blockages were removed by the Department's employees from drains and sanitary conveniences at 1,494 premises.

DEFECTS AND NUISANCES DISCOVERED AND ABATED.

DWELLING-HOUSES.

INTERNAL.

	By Notice		Otherwise	
	Discovered	Remedied	Discovered	Remedied
Windows :				
Woodwork	29	34	5	2
Cords	35	42	3	1
Fasteners	16	8	3	1
Glazing and putties ...	38	29	2	0
Mastic pointing	37	31	2	0
Doors :				
Doors	7	11	3	2
Casings	0	2	0	0
Thresholds or weatherboards	4	4	1	0
Hinges and fittings ...	4	2	0	0
Pointing	0	0	0	0
Floors :				
Boarded	3	6	18	15
Flagged	10	7	7	4
Damp	0	2	19	18
Water under	0	0	47	39
Walls :				
Plaster	52	52	25	22
Skirting boards	1	2	4	4
Damp	37	20	35	29
Ceilings :				
Plaster	55	52	16	12
Raining-in	71	37	24	17
Pantries, etc. :				
Walls	0	0	1	0
Ceilings	0	0	1	0
Staircases :				
Walls	2	2	0	0
Ceilings	4	3	0	0
Treads or risers	0	0	1	0
Handrails or balustrades	0	2	0	0
Open to bedrooms	0	0	0	0

	By Notice		Otherwise	
	Discovered	Remedied	Discovered	Remedied
Fireplaces :				
Fire-ranges (ironwork)	4	4	4	4
Firegrates	3	2	1	1
Tiling	0	1	0	0
Fire backs	6	5	2	1
Flues (chimney or oven)	2	3	6	4
Side boilers	0	0	1	1
Ovens	0	1	1	1
Jambs or Lintels	0	0	0	0
Insufficient light	1	0	0	0
Insufficient ventilation ...	7	3	0	0
Electrical fittings	1	0	1	1
Gas fittings	7	5	1	1
Sinks	8	7	1	0
Lavatory basins or baths...	0	0	0	0
Waste pipes—sinks, etc. ...	5	6	4	4
Insufficient water supply...	0	0	3	3
Water pipes or fittings ...	3	1	2	2
Cooking facilities	0	0	0	0
Washing facilities	0	0	0	0
Food Storage facilities ...	0	0	0	0
Water in cellar	0	0	0	0
Carried forward	452	386	244	189

DWELLING-HOUSES.**EXTERNAL.**

	By Notice		Otherwise	
	Discovered	Remedied	Discovered	Remedied
Dustbins or Bin-sheds :				
Bins	346	361	240	237
Lids	53	41	138	137
Doors	3	5	2	2
Locks	1	1	2	2
Frames	1	1	0	0
Structures	1	1	5	5
Misuse of Dustbin	0	0	0	0
Sanitary Accommodation,				
Drains, etc. :				
Waste water or trough closets	7	3	236	279
Fresh water closets ...	0	2	32	32

	By Notice		Otherwise	
	Discovered	Remedied	Discovered	Remedied
W.C. pedestals	6	6	2	2
W.C. water pipes or fittings	8	3	14	14
W.C. flushing cisterns..	0	1	5	4
Soil pipes	0	0	3	3
Closet structures	10	8	15	12
Closet doors or fittings.	9	4	29	33
Door-casings	7	4	9	8
Pails or privies	0	0	0	0
Cesspools or sewage disposal plants	0	0	0	0
Drains	17	10	250	247
Gullies, channel dishes	13	5	30	26
Coal Storage:				
Structures	8	4	1	0
Doors or fittings	11	5	0	0
Door-casings	9	2	0	0
None provided externally	0	0	0	0
Yard:				
Doors or fittings	10	6	3	1
Door jambs or lintels...	4	2	1	1
Walls	6	5	4	5
Surfaces	5	2	7	8
Drainage	0	1	4	5
Roofs	36	24	22	17
Eaves gutters	38	22	19	14
Rain water pipes	19	11	20	15
Waste pipes	1	1	0	0
Chimney stacks or pots	24	13	12	10
House walls (external)	3	7	2	1
Wall pointing	9	12	1	1
Cement rendering	9	10	1	0
Doorsteps or window or door jambs	0	0	0	0
Other structures	1	0	8	7
Refuse accumulations	0	0	39	39
Barge boards	0	0	0	0
Brought forward	452	386	244	183
Total	<u>1127</u>	<u>969</u>	<u>1400</u>	<u>1356</u>

HOUSING STATISTICS.

Number of houses erected during the year:—

	Prefabricated Houses (Permanent)	Traditional Permanent Houses	Flats
(a) By the local authority	—	—	18
(b) By other local authorities ...	—	6	—
(c) By other bodies or persons ...	—	5	—

1. Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year:—

- (1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) 562
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose 1578
- (2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932 ... 6
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose 20
- (3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation 1
- (4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation 562

2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices:—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers 586

3. Action under statutory powers during the year:—

(a) Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:

- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs 6
- (2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—
 - (a) By owners 6
 - (b) By local authority in default of owners 4

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :

- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied Nil
- (2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—
- (a) By owners Nil.
- (b) By local authority in default of owners Nil.

(c) Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made Nil.
- (2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders Nil.
- (3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which undertakings "not to occupy" were accepted by the local authority 1

(d) Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

- (1) Number of dwelling-houses, separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made Nil.
- (2) Number of Closing Orders which were determined, the premises having been rendered fit Nil.

(e) Proceedings under section 25 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

- (1) Number of clearance areas represented 1
- (2) Number of houses concerned in (1) 29
- (3) Number of areas cleared 1
- (4) Number of houses concerned in (3) 29
- (5) Number of residents displaced in (3) and (4) 73
- (6) Number of houses built by local authority to re-house residents displaced under Clearance Orders } None specifically but all except one family were re-housed by the Corporation.

4. Housing Act, 1936.—Part IV—Overcrowding :—

(a) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year.....	} No information under this head.
(ii) Number of families dwelling therein.....	
(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein	
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	Nil.
(c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	Nil.
(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases	Nil.

5. Housing Act, 1949 :—

No schemes for the improvement of existing housing
accommodation were submitted.

NOTICES SERVED.

Form of Notice:—	1954.
Intimation (preliminary)	428
Statutory	14
	<hr/>
	442
	<hr/>

HOUSING AND SLUM CLEARANCE.

The most significant event concerning housing was the coming into operation on the 30th August, 1954, of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954. The main purposes of the Act were to make further provision in respect of slum clearance and the reconditioning of unfit houses.

The "repairs increase" part of the Act was designed to deal with the essentially sound class of houses which were capable of being put into good condition. Landlords could claim a repairs increase on rents, provided that their houses were in good repair and fit for human habitation, and that the prescribed expenditure test could be satisfied. The owners of rented houses did not, however, display any general enthusiasm to take advantage of the rent increase provisions, possibly because the permitted increase was considered inadequate in many cases to encourage owners to maintain their property at the prescribed standard of "good repair", or because houses had been allowed to deteriorate to such an extent that it would be too costly to bring them up to the requisite standard. Certificates of disrepair were granted in the seven instances where applications from tenants were received.

The Act also required local authorities to submit within 12 months to the Minister of Housing and Local Government their proposals for dealing with unfit houses in their areas.

During the year the demolition of the largest slum area in the town, the Bridge-Davy-Bank Streets area comprising 29 dwelling-houses, was initiated.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

There are in the Borough 3 registered common lodging houses, their condition and conduct being satisfactory. 15 visits were paid.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES AND DISINFECTION.

164 visits were paid in connection with cases of infectious disease and the disinfection of infected articles and premises. The following table gives details of disinfections carried out during the year.

DISINFECTIONS.

	1954
Rooms of dwelling-houses	135
Schools	—
Books	80
Beds	33
Articles of Bedding	163
Articles of clothing	52
Miscellaneous Articles	6
	<hr/> 469 <hr/>

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

During the year 5 houses were disinfested. Satisfactory results were obtained by the use of "D.D.T." solution.

DESTRUCTION OF RATS AND MICE.

The surface infestations which arise in dwelling-houses, business and industrial premises, etc., and originate chiefly as the result of rats gaining access by way of defective drains from the public sewers, have been treated as usual by the whole-time Rodent Operator working under the direction of the Inspectoral Staff. Although a charge is made for disinfestation work at business and industrial premises, a free service is afforded to dwelling-houses.

Since 1945, regular bi-annual sewer treatments have been carried out to deal with rats at their source by the laying of poison bait in manholes. This year, however, the shortage of suitable labour permitted only one such treatment, during which

648 sewer manholes were baited and 240 "test-baited", by two men in a period of approximately three months.

The methods of control adopted were those recommended by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, from whom grant-aid was available to the extent of 50% of the approved net expenditure incurred.

249 visits were paid by Sanitary Inspectors in connection with rodent control measures.

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951.

The Act provides for the licensing of pet shops, and, in deciding whether to grant a licence, the local authority is required to have regard to the need for securing that there will be provided accommodation suitable as regards size, temperature, lighting, ventilation and cleanliness; that there will be an adequate supply of suitable food and drink; that the animals will not be sold at too early an age; that all reasonable precautions will be taken to prevent the spread of infectious diseases; and that appropriate steps will be taken in case of fire or other emergency.

Licences were granted in respect of 7 pet shops.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

One gut scraper and three tripe dressers carry on scheduled offensive trades on four separate premises. The conduct of these trades was, on the whole, satisfactory.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION.

The latter part of the year heralded what promised to be the beginning of new measures to combat the social and economic evils of smoke. I refer to the publication of the Report of the Committee on Air Pollution, the most important recommendation being for new legislation to augment the existing statutory powers. At the time of writing a "Clean Air Bill" is passing through Parliament, and it remains to be seen in what form it finally emerges.

101 visits in connection with atmospheric pollution were paid by Sanitary Inspectors during the year.

Investigation of Atmospheric Pollution:

Month.	Water inches rain.	Tons per Square Mile.		
		Total Water Insoluble Matter	Total Water Soluble Matter	Total Solids
January	4.17	6.36	16.04	22.40
February	2.36	5.67	10.97	16.64
March	2.17	7.06	6.40	13.46
April	0.43	6.76	4.90	11.66
May	2.52	10.00	9.08	19.08
June	2.44	8.15	7.16	15.31
July	4.61	7.72	9.84	17.56
August	5.32	7.09	10.58	17.67
September	5.12	11.50	12.59	24.09
October	6.15	7.99	12.33	20.32
November	5.91	7.59	8.42	16.01
December	5.63	3.68	13.85	17.53
TOTAL	46.83	89.57	122.16	211.73
Monthly Average	3.90	7.46	10.18	17.64

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948.

The number of Factories on the Register is as follows:—

(i) Factories with mechanical power	239
(ii) Factories without mechanical power	50
(iii) Other premises under the Acts (including works of building and engineering construction but not including outworkers' premises)	5
	<hr/>
	294
	<hr/>

499 visits were paid in connection with the conduct of Factories. In 10 instances it was necessary to call the attention of occupiers or owners to sanitary defects, in all cases the remedy being applied without resorting to formal action.

STORAGE OF PETROLEUM SPIRIT AND CARBIDE.

35 visits were paid to premises where petroleum spirit and carbide are stored, three new installations for the storage of petroleum spirit being approved during the year.

Licences were issued as follows:—

To store Petroleum Spirit	73
To store Carbide	4
To store Petroleum Mixtures ...	1

The proper storage of petroleum spirit is a matter of the greatest importance if danger is to be avoided. Many installations have been in existence for a considerable number of years without

any accident occurring, but there has to be a first time for everything. Considering its dangerous nature no comparable substance is handled as negligently as petrol, familiarity breeding contempt. Certain existing installations are in need of bringing up to modern standards of safety, and the attention of all licensees is drawn to the necessity for ensuring that their petroleum installations are in such a condition as not to predispose to accident.

With the co-operation of the Lancashire County Fire Brigade it is expected that all existing installations will be inspected and reported upon at the earliest practicable opportunity. In the meantime no new installation is approved without joint inspection by the District Fire Prevention Officer and a Sanitary Inspector, thereby ensuring that any likely source of danger is obviated.

It is therefore fitting that I should extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Mr. J. Clitherow, Chief Fire Officer of the Lancashire County Fire Brigade, for the specialised fire prevention knowledge which he readily makes available to the Department on request.

DISEASES OF ANIMALS ACTS.

There were no cases of contagious diseases of animals reported in the Borough during the year.

No licences were issued by the Department, although it was verified that the animals concerned in 229 licences were moved only in accordance with licensing conditions.

SAMPLING OF FOOD AND DRUGS.

(a) Food and Drugs Acts, 1938 to 1954.

Shown below is a Return of all samples of food and drugs analysed by the Public Analyst under the provisions of the Acts during the year.

250 visits were paid by Sanitary Inspectors in connection with the sampling of food and drugs.

Article of food or drug	Number analysed	Number adulterated or non-standard.	Percentage adulterated or non-standard.
Milk	79	5	6.33
Potted Meat	1	—	—
Jellied Chicken	1	—	—
Boiled Mutton	1	—	—
Salmon Paste	2	—	—
Margarine	2	—	—
Butter	1	—	—
Cooking Fat	1	—	—
Desiccated Coconut	2	—	—
Ground Rice	2	—	—
Semolina	1	—	—
Rolled Oats	1	—	—
Oats	1	—	—
Oatmeal	1	—	—
Flour	1	—	—
Self-Raising Flour	1	—	—
Egg Self-Raising Flour	1	—	—
Cornflour	2	—	—
Yorkshire Pudding Mixture	1	—	—

Golden Raising Powder	1	—	—
Baking Powder	2	—	—
Sodium Bicarbonate	1	—	—
Ground Ginger	2	—	—
Ground Coffee	1	—	—
Cocoa	1	—	—
Concentrated Coffee,			
Chicory and Sugar	1	—	—
Lemon Cheese	1	—	—
Plum Jam	1	—	—
Cheese Spread	1	—	—
Prunes	1	—	—
Dates	1	—	—
Mixed Cut Peel	1	—	—
Mincemeat	1	—	—
Mixed Pickles	1	—	—
White Pepper	1	—	—
Non-Brewed Condiment	1	—	—
Malt Vinegar	1	—	—
Chocolate	1	—	—
Orange Drink	8	—	—
Lemon Barley Squash	1	—	—
Powdered Gelatine	2	—	—
Glucose Powder	1	—	—
Olive Oil	1	—	—
Raspberry Vinegar and			
Olive Oil	1	—	—
Glycerine, Honey and			
Lemon	1	—	—
Blanc-Mange	1	—	—
Jiffi-Jelli	1	—	—
Aspirin Tablets	1	—	—
	<hr/> 141 <hr/>	<hr/> 5 <hr/>	<hr/> 3.54 <hr/>

The five sub-standard milk samples were obtained from three vendors, details of the samples and action taken being as follow, viz:—

1. **VENDOR A.**

One retail sample of milk revealed a natural deficiency in non-fatty solids to the extent of 4.7%, in consequence of which the vendor was cautioned.

2. **VENDOR B.**

A retail sample revealed a deficiency in milk fat to the extent of 8.3%, while a corresponding "Appeal to Cow" sample was also reported deficient in milk fat to the extent of 8.0%. The vendor was cautioned.

3. **VENDOR C.**

A retail sample revealed a deficiency in milk fat to the extent of 19.0%, while a corresponding "Appeal to Cow" sample was also reported deficient in milk fat to the extent of 1.3%. The vendor was cautioned.

(b) **Milk (Special Designations) Regulations, 1949.**

All bacteriological examinations of milk samples continue to be carried out by the Department of Pathology, Royal Infirmary, Blackburn.

During the year 28 samples of pasteurised milk and 15 samples of tuberculin tested (pasteurised) milk were submitted for the phosphatase, methylene blue and coliform tests; all samples, except one of pasteurised milk, satisfied the legally prescribed tests.

12 samples of sterilised milk were taken and were reported to comply with the turbidity test.

44 samples of tuberculin tested milk were submitted for the methylene blue and coliform tests. One sample failed the prescribed test and appropriate action was taken in respect of it.

MILK AND DAIRIES.

(a) Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949.

In accordance with these Regulations duties in connection with the supervision of milk production on farms were transferred from local authorities to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries in 1949.

Local authorities, however, retained their duties in connection with the control of milk distribution, including the registration of distributors.

181 milk distributors were registered under the Regulations.

(b) Milk (Special Designations) Regulations, 1949.

The special designations permitted for raw milk are (a) Tuberculin Tested, and (b) Accredited, those for heat-treated milk being principally (a) Pasteurised, and (b) Sterilised.

The following licences were granted under the Regulations, viz:—

Dealer's Licence (Sterilised)	143
" " (Pasteurised)	46
" " (Tuberculin Tested)	28
" " (Accredited)	0
Supplementary Licence (Sterilised)	2
" " (Pasteurised)	2
" " (Tuberculin Tested)	3
Pasteuriser's Licence	1

MEAT INSPECTION AND THE PUBLIC ABATTOIR.

The year's major event for the meat trade was the end of meat rationing and government tenancy of the Public Abattoir on July 3rd, after over 14 years of rationing.

Prior to decontrol a great deal was said about the proposed event, and sceptical remarks made as to the ability of private traders and local authorities to effect a smooth transition. This was hardly surprising in view of the fact that local authorities were eventually given less than 10 weeks in which to formulate concrete plans for the change-over.

The Council were faced with the tasks of re-letting the abattoir in the fairest and most practical manner and of fulfilling their statutory duty to ensure that slaughtering facilities were sufficient for the area, in which latter connection no applications for licensing private slaughterhouses were received.

Alterations to the buildings and fittings were kept to the minimum consistent with sanitation and operation, while securing that the structure and equipment were overhauled and renovated after the lengthy occupation by the Ministry of Food. New equipment, including electrical stunning apparatus, hoisting gear, etc., were installed. The entire abattoir was turned over to the new tenants in a hygienic and workable condition, and the appointed day found the premises a veritable hive of industry.

Meat inspection continued, as under government control, to ensure the careful post-mortem inspection of all animals slaughtered. The conditions of tenancy provided for all condemned meat and offals to become the property of the Corporation, thus allowing disposal of the material in such manner that there was no possibility of it being used in any way whatsoever for human consumption.

Perhaps the greatest criticism which can be levelled against the abattoir is that lairage accommodation is inadequate. The buildings were not designed to deal with the present throughput

of animals, and, if this is a permanent feature, some expansion beyond the existing curtilage must be considered.

Statistics for 1953 and 1954, contained in Tables such as those shown below, bring out two main facts, viz:—

- (1) The considerable increase in throughput for a year with only six months of the decontrol period (29% increase in cattle, 109% in sheep and 70% in pigs).
- (2) The improvement in quality of meat as shown by the decline in incidence of disease and reduced condemnations. Consumer demand dictates quality and it is hoped that the present encouraging state of affairs will continue.

TABLE I.—Annual Comparisons.

	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950
Number of cattle slaughtered and inspected	6,469	5,011	4,752	5,956	5,851
Percentage affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	18.2%	24.0%	22.8%	22.4%	23.8%
Percentage affected with Tuberculosis	21.3%	26.8%	28.4%	31.1%	37.8%
Total Disease Percentage	39.5%	50.8%	51.2%	53.5%	61.6%

TABLE II.—Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

	Cattle other than Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number of animals slaughtered and inspected	3774	2695	1036	38420	5883
All diseases except Tuberculosis					
Whole carcasses condemned	1	1	12	8	9
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	467	709	2	2339	377
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	12.4%	26.3%	1.4%	6.1%	6.6%
	18.2%				
Tuberculosis only					
Whole carcasses condemned	6	34	6	—	9
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	498	838	—	—	201
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	13.4%	32.4%	0.6%	—	3.6%
	21.3%				

TABLE III.—Conditions Necessitating Condemnation of
Whole Carcases and Organs.

Diseases	Cattle other than			Sheep and	
	Cows	Cows	Calves	Lambs	Pigs
Tuberculosis	6	34	6	—	9
Septic Diseases	1	1	4	—	2
Pyæmia	—	—	—	1	—
Toxaemia	—	—	—	1	—
Fever	—	—	—	—	2
General Dropsy and Emaciation	—	—	—	2	—
General Bruising	—	—	—	1	—
Moribundity	—	—	1	3	4
Immaturity	—	—	6	—	—
Uraemia	—	—	—	—	1
Putrefaction	—	—	1	—	—
Total	7	35	18	8	18

TABLE IV.—Comparison of Condemned Meat and Offals.

	Weights of Condemned Meat and Offals.			
	1954		1953	
	Meat lbs.	Offal lbs.	Meat lbs.	Offal lbs.
Tuberculosis	48,598	23,251	75,355	27,632
All diseases except Tuberculosis	8,583	33,077	7,798	42,414
Total Home Killed	57,181	56,328	83,153	70,046
Add Imported	1,602	149	4,376	282
Total Weight Condemned	58,783	56,477	87,529	70,328

INSPECTION OF OTHER FOODS.

1,542 visits were paid to miscellaneous food premises for the purpose of examination of food and inspection of premises. In no instance was it found necessary to resort to formal seizure of unsound food, all being surrendered voluntarily. The articles of food which were given up for destruction as being unfit for human consumption were as follow:—

Miscellaneous Canned Foods	3,798 tins
Miscellaneous Glass-packed Foods	131 articles
Cheese	68 lbs.
Beef Suet	1 „
Fish	5 „
Shin Beef	28 „
Ham	27 „
Fruit	449 „
Dried Peas	1 „
Biscuits	2 „
Table Jellies	2

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.

No cases occurred during the year under Section 47 of the above-mentioned Act, which enables the Medical Officer of Health to remove persons who are in need of care and attention and who are living under insanitary conditions.

Section 50 imposes on the local authority the duty of causing to be buried or cremated the body of any person who has died in its area, in any case where it appears to the authority that

no suitable arrangements for the disposal of the body will be made otherwise than by the authority. No action was necessary during the year under review.

Since the Act came into operation eighteen burials have been effected, the funeral arrangements having been made in all cases by the Cemetery Registrar, Mr. D. Robertson, in collaboration with the Department, in which connection it is fitting to record the valuable co-operation and assistance given at all times by Mr. Robertson.

CLEANSING SERVICES.

COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL OF REFUSE.

Year Ended 31st March, 1955.

REFUSE DEALT WITH.

(1) Refuse Collected.

	Tons	cwts.	grs.
House and Shop Refuse	9,387	17	1
Clinker from Schools, etc.	355	14	0
Market Refuse	189	1	2
Fish and Trade Refuse	759	16	0
	<hr/>		
	10,692	8	3
	<hr/>		

(2) Methods of Disposal of Refuse.

Taken to Tips (10.8%)	1,159	2	2
Dealt with at Disposal Works			
(a) Separation and			
Incineration (87.0%) 9,298 12 2			
(b) Direct Incineration			
(2.2%) 234 13 3			
	<hr/>		
	9,533	6	1
	<hr/>		
	10,692	8	3
	<hr/>		

(3) Weight of Refuse.

Actual weight	9,606	14	3
Estimated weight	405	19	0
Estimated weight from test weighings	679	15	0
	<hr/>		
	10,692	8	3
	<hr/>		

CLEANSING SERVICE.

House and Trade Refuse.

Table showing Costs for the year ended 31st March, 1955.

Item	Particulars. 1	Collection 2	Disposal 3	Total 4
	Revenue Account.			
1	Gross Expenditure:	£	£	£
	(i) Labour	9,873	7,924	17,797
	(ii) Transport	9,487	1,469	10,956
	(iii) Plant, equipment, land and buildings	2,342	4,436	6,778
	(iv) Other items	18	73	91
	(v) Total gross expenditure	21,720	13,902	35,622
2	Gross Income	3,895	7,190	11,085
3	Net Cost	17,825	6,712	24,537
4	Capital expenditure met from revenue (in- cluded above)	Nil	Nil	Nil
	Unit Costs.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
5	Gross cost per ton, labour only	18 6	14 10	33 4
6	Gross cost per ton, transport only	17 9	2 9	20 6
7	Net cost (all expendi- ture) per ton	33 4	12 7	45 11
		£	£	£
8	Net cost per 1,000 popu- lation	445.7	167.8	613.6
9	Net cost per 1,000 premises	1,122.3	422.6	1,544.9

1.	Area (statute acres)	4,418
2.	Population at 30th June, 1954	39,990
3.	Total refuse collected (tons)	10,692
4.	Weight (cwts.) per 1,000 population per day (365 days to year)	14.7
5.	Number of premises from which refuse is collected	15,883
6.	Average haul by collection vehicle to disposal point ... approx. $\frac{7}{8}$ mile	

CLEANSING SERVICE.

Street Cleansing.

Table showing Costs for the year ended 31st March, 1955.

Item	Particulars 1	Street Sweeping & Watering 2	Street Gully Cleansing 3	Total 4
	Revenue Account.			
1	Gross Expenditure:	£	£	£
	(i) Labour	4,257	398	4,655
	(ii) Transport	2,219	994	3,213
	(iii) Plant, Equipment, buildings, etc.	1,274	197	1,471
	(iv) Other items	16	—	16
	(v) Total gross expendi- ture	7,766	1,589	9,355
2	Gross Income (exclud- ing reimbursements from Ministry of Transport and the County Council)	760	242	1,002
3	Net Cost	7,006	1,347	8,353
4	Capital expenditure met from revenue (in- cluded above)	Nil	Nil	Nil
5	Gross expenditure on snow clearance not included previously	2,050	—	—
	Unit Costs			
6	Net cost per street mile cleansed	£ s. d. 98 1 11	—	—
7	Net cost per 1,000 street gullies cleansed	£ —	£ 50.8	£ —
8	Net cost per 1,000 popu- lation	175.2	33.7	208.9

1. Mileage of streets cleansed 71.42

2. Frequency of cleansing: %

(a) At least once daily 9.8

(b) Three to five times weekly —

(c) Twice weekly	2.9
(d) Once weekly	16.1
(e) Less than once weekly	71.2
—	100.0%

3. Number of street gullies cleansed	6,549
4. Number of gully cleansings during the year	26,527
5. Percentage of street cleansing done mechanically ...	60.0
6. Percentage of gully cleansing done mechanically ...	100.0

VEHICLE PERFORMANCE TABLE.

Vehicle	Purchased	Actual hours worked	Repairs	Cleaning	% Hours Running	Hours Holidays	Hours rained off, etc.
S. and D. TE 9389	September 1929	1948	44 $\frac{3}{4}$	102	79.6	99	252
S. and D. OTC 910	June 1952	2211	62 $\frac{1}{4}$	116 $\frac{3}{4}$	88.8	99	—
S & D, PTE 70	May, 1953	2247	26	119 $\frac{1}{4}$	90.2	99	—
Dennis 1 ATC 439	September 1935	1901	49	244 $\frac{1}{2}$	72.9	136	276 $\frac{1}{2}$
Dennis 2 BTD 22	November 1936	915 $\frac{3}{4}$	145 $\frac{1}{2}$	42 $\frac{3}{4}$	38.8	99	1.54 $\frac{3}{4}$
Dennis 4 FTJ 18	November 1945	1684 $\frac{1}{4}$	204 $\frac{1}{2}$	75	63.9	147	524 $\frac{3}{4}$
Dennis 5 JTD 464	May 1948	2141 $\frac{3}{4}$	158 $\frac{1}{4}$	98 $\frac{1}{4}$	81.1	90	151 $\frac{1}{2}$
Dennis 6 LTJ 528	June 1950	2414 $\frac{1}{2}$	79	113 $\frac{3}{4}$	90.4	63	—
Karrier 1 FTD 769	January 1944	2067	177 $\frac{1}{2}$	103	82.1	54	117 $\frac{1}{2}$
Karrier 2 JTF 386	September 1948	1916 $\frac{1}{2}$	264 $\frac{3}{4}$	94 $\frac{1}{2}$	75.3	99	171 $\frac{1}{2}$
Karrier 3 KTF 954	August 1949	1972	275 $\frac{3}{4}$	101	78.2	99	74 $\frac{1}{2}$
Karrier 4 JTJ 308	March 1953	2274 $\frac{1}{2}$	94	115	87.2	54	70
Lewin MTE 126	December 1950	1641 $\frac{1}{2}$	229 $\frac{1}{2}$	399	62.4	149	210 $\frac{1}{4}$
Total		25334 $\frac{3}{4}$	1810 $\frac{3}{4}$	1725 $\frac{1}{4}$	76.4	1287	3003 $\frac{1}{4}$

REFUSE COLLECTION — DISTRICT EFFICIENCY.

DISTRICT :

	Spring Hill & Higher Antley	West and North	East and South	North, Peel Park & Huncoat	Centre
Total emptyings	148,990	145,808	143,237	143,511	119,952
Total tonnage	1,974.9	1,816.8	1,728.6	2,083.4	1,409.1
Bins per man per hour	13	16	16	13	13
Weight per man per hour... (excluding weight of bin)	lbs. 399	lbs. 456	lbs. 436	lbs. 421	lbs. 352
Weight per bin (lbs.)	30	28	27	33	26
No. of bins for District.....	3,407	3,044	2,964	3,310	2,496
Frequency of emptyings	44	48	48	43	48

QUANTITATIVE (SEASONAL) REFUSE ANALYSIS.

	1954-55			
	Summer		Winter	
	Weight	%	Weight	%
	lbs.		lbs.	
Weight of one cubic yard.....	640	100.0	791	100.0
Fine dust minus 5/16"	275	43.0	326	41.2
Fuel cinder 5/16" to 3/4"	167	16.7	160	20.2
Fuel cinder over 3/4"	58	9.1	110	13.9
Organic matter	24	3.8	22	2.8
Paper	36	5.6	51	6.5
Metal	41	6.4	24	3.0
Rags	6	0.9	10	1.3
Glass	47	7.3	35	4.4
Bone	3	0.5	6	0.7
Unclassified combustible	40	6.2	32	4.1
Unclassified incombustible	3	0.5	15	1.9
Average weight per bin	26		33	

REFUSE DISPOSAL WORKS.

SALES.

Year ended 31st March, 1955.

	Tons cwts. qrs.			£ s. d.		
Waste Paper	618	5	2			
Textiles	13	10	2			
Compressed Destructor Scrap	188	8	2			
Scrap Iron	60	10	1			
Other Metal Scrap	1	15	0			
Lime Mortar	251	18	0			
Kitchen Waste	264	8	0			
	<hr/>			6,425	6	8

The receipts from sales this year showed an increase of £1,110 on last year's figures, when there was a decrease of £1,051. Considering that this decrease was chiefly due to the loss of £800 revenue for steam supplied to the adjoining electricity undertaking, it is noteworthy that increased salvage sales this year more than made good the loss in revenue from steam supplies.

In January, 1955, the collection of kitchen waste was discontinued, a service which had operated since 1940. A reduction of 105 tons in the quantity of such waste collected resulted in diminished income. Although a vital necessity during the war

and post-war years, the fall in prices and quantities collected in recent years, together with increased collection costs, had made kitchen waste an uneconomical proposition for the Corporation. The disappearance of waste bins from the streets was not unwelcomed by the public in general; food scraps should now be consigned to the domestic fire, not the dustbin.

The decline in sales of lime mortar continued with a reduction of 67 tons on last year's record low figure. Having regard to the fact that the Borough Engineer's Department purchased about a half of our output, it would appear that there is a progressively limited demand for this material by the local building trades. Less compressed metal scrap was produced due to mechanical failure of the baling press.

The increased income, notwithstanding the above-mentioned reductions, was primarily due to waste paper sales. The continued improvement in the market permitted the sale of about 218 tons more than in 1953. It is to be hoped that the apparently stable demand for waste paper at present will continue. At the end of the year the sum of £1,006 10s. 5d. had been distributed among the Department's employees through the Incentive Bonus Payment Scheme in respect of waste paper, as compared with £326 18s. 4d. during the previous year.

Finally, on behalf of the Department, I should like to thank members of the Council, including particularly the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and members of the Health and Cleansing Committee, for the support and encouragement given during the year. We also thank the Town Clerk, Borough Treasurer, Borough Engineer, and other colleague officials and their staffs for their

co-operation and assistance. My personal thanks are due to Dr. Webster, Medical Officer of Health for his continued backing and help at all times, and, lastly, to a capable and loyal staff and body of most willing employees.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

J. A. HINDLE,

Chief Sanitary Inspector and
Cleansing Superintendent.



